

News from Rep. Stephanie Herseth

For Immediate Release

Contact: Russ Levsen, 202-226-4449

COOL DELAYED AGAIN – HOUSE LEADERSHIP FAILS TO STAND UP FOR RURAL AMERICA

Herseth Votes No on Ag Approps Conference Report

October 28, 2005, Washington, D.C. - The U.S. House of Representatives today passed an agriculture appropriations conference report that once again delays implementation of mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (COOL). U.S. Rep. Stephanie Herseth is a strong proponent of immediate implementation of mandatory COOL because it will help South Dakota's ranchers develop a better market based upon the quality of their product. She voted against the bill.

Herseth said, "Mandatory COOL was signed into law as part of the 2002 Farm Bill because it is common sense legislation that benefits producers and consumers alike. This latest egregious delay means that COOL will effectively be pushed back until the expiration of the 2002 Farm Bill. Unfortunately, some in House Leadership continues to turn a deaf ear to the needs of rural America, particularly producers in South Dakota." The agriculture appropriations bill does contain specific funding for South Dakota projects, including:

- \$750,000 for wildlife service operations with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks
- \$380,000 to continue control measures for minimizing blackbird damage to sunflowers in North Dakota and South Dakota
- Various research projects at South Dakota State University, including: \$300,000 for Crop Integration and Production, \$675,000 for Feedstock Conversion, \$494,000 for Ruminant Nutrition Consortium and \$360,000 Seed Technology

#

Congresswoman Stephanie Herseth serves South Dakota in the U.S. House of Representatives. She is a member of the Blue Dog Coalition, a group of moderate Democrats committed to fiscal discipline and strong national security, and is co-chair of the Rural Working Group, which is dedicated to raising the profile of issues important to rural America. She also serves on three committees vital to South Dakota's interests: Agriculture, Veterans' Affairs and Resources.